The Ladder

DECEMBER 1947

purpose of the

Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications—this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law to the state legislatures.

the Ladder

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Cover by Helen Sanders

Holiday Greetings

Christmas is the time of "good will towards all men" (and women), and certainly the staff of THE LADDER has been receiving this past year many, many letters of good will from readers all over the world.

May we now express our gratitude for all the support we have received in the way of manuscripts, funds and messages of encouragement?

And may we add that during the coming year we hope to be able to grow in a manner befitting your unqualified support.

God Bless You All!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Phyllis Lyon, Editor

ABOUT THAT CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA....

Approximately a year ago I wrote an article for THE LADDER entitled "Why a Chapter in Your Area?" in which I attempted to stimulate interest in the formation of chapters of the Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., in various parts of the country. To date there has been a great deal of interest shown.

However, during the interim we have found that to form an effective chapter takes quite a bit more than stimulation and interest. It takes time, strong leadership, thorough indoctrination of the principles and aims of the organization, imagination, hard work, planning. You name it - we need it!

But don't be discouraged - we're not. As a matter of

fact, we are in the process of drawing up plans for the formation of chapters in Los Angeles, New York City and the New England states (if desirable). We have not had enough response in other areas to warrant chapters at this time. And besides, this is quite an undertaking in itself for the time being.

LOS ANGELES

Those in Los Angeles who are interested we are asking to write to us immediately. A few of us are planning to be in Los Angeles for ONE's Mid-Winter Institute at the end of January. This would enable us to meet with you at that time and discuss the prospects.

Helen Sanders, publications director of the DOB, will be moving to Los Angeles next year. And after a suitable time for getting settled in her new home, she will be available to help organize a Los Angeles Chapter.

NEW YORK CITY AND NEW ENGLAND STATES

Those in these areas have a little more time in which to correspond with us. Several members of the Daughters are planning to attend the Mattachine Convention over Labor Day weekend in 1958 at New York City. Some will spend their two-week vacations in the area and should have ample time (between sight-seeing excursions) to discuss possibilities for a chapter or chapters in the area.

IN THE MEANTIME . . .

Won't you please write? Tell us why you are particularly interested in the Daughters of Bilitis? What activities are of most interest to you? What are your talents? How can you help us? How can we help you? The more information you can give us, the better able we will be to make effective plans. Certainly any comments or suggestions regarding our present program would be welcome. Write to the Daughters of Bilitis, 693 Mission St., Rm. 308, San Francisco 5, Calif.

-Del Martin, Pres.

ONE Symposium

THE HOMOSEXUAL IN THE 'ROUND'

That much has come to light in the past few years with respect to the homosexual and the fields of psychology and the law, but little is known as yet as regards history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy and religion was brought out forcefully during a concentrated week of lectures conducted by ONE Institute in San Francisco during November.

Since researchers apparently are not particularly interested in pursuing the subject of the homosexual in these other fields, members of the staff of ONE Institute have taken the job upon themselves in order that we may have a more composite picture of the homosexual. Only a small portion of the vast amount of material that has been gathered in the past two years was presented during the Symposium sponsored by the Daughters of Bilitis, and it is hoped that future lectures can be arranged.

While the material presented by W. Dorr Legg and Jim Kepner was very enlightening, it was found that the facts necessarily led to a great many questions which must be answered before a true picture of homosexuality can be obtained: In the study of the various cultures, is there a homosexual constant? Why were homosexual institutions not as developed for the female as for the male? Is homosexuality an emergent factor? Does the homosexual serve a useful purpose in society? Does Nature require that all men procreate? What is natural? Is naturalness uniform? Are sex acts only for the purpose of reproduction?

There is the challenge - and ONE Institute is coming up with some of the answers! It would be prohibitive here to attempt to review a solid week of lectures. Suffice it to say that those who attended the series went away more thoughtful of the homosexual's place in the scheme of things, more aware of "the homosexual in the round", more questioning of the so-called facts that have been handed down to us and accepted as gospel, more leery of

the"conspiracy of silence" by historical writers and more eager to delve into research to fill in the wide gaps in our knowledge.

The last session was devoted to a survey of homosexual organizations and where they are headed. Unfortunately time did not permit discussion from the floor. As an extension of this session, the Daughters of Bilitis have invited the Mattachine Society to join them in a discussion to be held on January 28 at 465 Geary St., Studio 30, at 8:15 p.m. to pursue the subject further. Panel members from each organization will present a brief history, a survey of present programs and an outline of future plans. General discussion will follow. The purpose of the meet will be to take stock of what is being done now and determine what the future may hold.

The two views of ONE Institute which follow were originally printed in the December, 1957, issue of the San Francisco Area Council Mattachine Newsletter, to the editor of which we are grateful for permission to reprint these articles. -ED.

For those attending, the Symposium given by ONE Institute November 11 to 17 was an impressive and exciting experience. The sessions, each two hours long, examined homosexuality from the viewpoints of history, biology, medicine, psychology, sociology, philosophy and religion. Each session covered a remarkable range in presentation of material, and such an abundance of it was given that at the end of the Symposium those attending went away feeling like the intellectual equivalent of a well-nigh overstuffed Thanksgiving turkey.

One of the most interesting sessions concerned the homophilic side of German history from Roman times through Frederic the Great and Ludwig of Bavaria, down to the Hitlerian regime and the present legal situation. As was carefully pointed out by the speaker, this side exists to the history of every European country. With England, for example, one could discuss the mores of the Normans, Edward the II, the debate concerning Queen

Elizabeth, Charles the II, Florence Nightingale and Edward Fitzgerald. The only real difference between Germany and the rest of Europe seems to be that there have been more persons in crucial governmental positions there at crucial turningpoints of history than in the rest of them.

In the session devoted to religious doctrines the history of Jewish and Christian sexual attitudes was gone into. Among other things, it was pointed out that Christianity has always had several different attitudes towards sexual mores and that it was not until shortly before, or at the beginning of, the Christian era that Jewish religious leaders began to declare that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was homosexuality and not pride, as their earlier ones had done.

At the final session the various types of homosexual organizations were described. An interesting and provocative point was made that the European organizations have an entirely different approach from the main American ones. Their magazines are sold only to subscribers and never on newsstands. There is little or no attempt made to interest the public and even less to contact psychiatrists, doctors, law enforcement officers, etc. In most European countries there is less to fear, and yet the homosexual seems to be more afraid than here, and has a tendency to withdraw from society into his own little private circles. As was said by the speaker, we actually have far more to hope for and our outlook for the future is far more encouraging in this country.

The whole Symposium was a remarkable experience and those who attended came away with great respect for the monumental labors that had gone into the assembling and compiling of the material presented. It was truly a Herculean task to do so, and a task which deserves the highest praise of all acquainted with it. As yet a textbook summarizing the material presented has not been published, but when this is accomplished, a great contribution will have been made to the homophile world. While most of the books and articles from which this material was drawn are available to the general reader, it is unfortunately true

that the greater body of it is scattered throughout the works of virtually an army of authorities and thus it is unknown to most.

-Jack Parrish

Sponsored by the Daughters of Bilitis, the Education Division of ONE Institute presented a Symposium: How Homosexuality Fits In - fits into religion, philosophy, politics, everyday living, etc.

Starting with a brief anthropological survey, examination was made of the possible beliefs of ancient man, superstitions, the general attitudes towards sex. A study of Greece, a period of 1500 years, showed that homosexuality was a part of the culture, not something separate. Part of the process of a young man reaching maturity was to have the guidance and tutorship of an older man. The history of America is rich with Greek influence in the fields of art, architecture and parlimentary procedure, but lacking in the concept of "Brotherly Love". Acceptance of ourselves as individuals and as members of mankind concluded the first section of the Symposium.

A look at the biological factors seems to indicate that the choice of love object is psychological in nature. Germany was used as an example of the contemporary scene; noteworthy men and women working in literature, art, etc. Many attempts are being made to bring religious doctrines and sex mores and practices together on a more sound and practical working basis. A careful study of the Bible proves it is still the greatest book ever written and has "everything" in it.

The sessions closed with a discussion of "Homophile Organizations: Where are they Headed?" Mentioned were some of the problems and pitfalls groups of this nature should be aware of. It would appear that our culture is on the verge of a new and dynamic development in which the homophile will have an important role.

-Warren Jonson

Night for Decision

A Story by Frances LaSalle

Tay sat on the edge of her bed. One hand kept raking through her dark and usually well-kept hair. "This is the night,"she told herself. "I must know before morning." She drew in her breath heavily. "I must know."

It wasn't that Millicent required a decision now. For Millicent had said, "I'll wait on your answer forever, darling, if only then you'll say 'Yes!'" But long before forever, Tay would have destroyed her own self. And anyway, even if Millicent would wait - and could - would keeping her waiting be fair? For that matter, how fair had she been with Don? "Oh, Don," Tay said, a note of aggravation in her half-aloud voice. She had been giving Don so much of her time lately. Too much of her time. . .

Yet, Tay considered over and over monotonously, Don was such a fine boy. Already climbing fast in his father's $400,000 business. Her mother and father displayed such pride that soon they might be announcing their daughter's engagement to the "best catch in the county" - only they didn't word it that way. Then there was Alan, her younger brother, who planned so hopefully on being asked into the firm of Don's father as soon as he had taken his degree at State U. Even Geraldine, Tay's younger sister, went sparkle-eyed whenever Don's name came up. "I'll be the most beautiful bridesmaid at the wedding," she announced with the ego of sixteen.

But more than these three, Tay must consider her parents. Her conventional mother who informed Tay: "I think it's just fine for you to work on your PhiD.; but don't let anything interfere with your femininity, my dear." (as if anything could steal from Tay her womanly grace and beauty.) "You know," the mother added, "no amount of education can replace a good husband and sweet children." But the hardest for Tay to bear was her mother's remark, "There's your friend Millicent. Now, one can't find a better girl alive; and your father says she's already the best teacher in

entomology over at State. But that's just the point - she's forgotten the importance of a family in her love for all those old bugs of hers."

Tay could have replied at such length. But all she said was "Insects, Mother - not bugs!"

Then there was Tay's father. Probably he counted most of all; for her decision might even affect his position as Dean of Men which he'd held at State U for more than 20 years. She lifted both hands, and her fingers like talons ran through the rumpled hair. Then she made her hands flat and pushed them heavily across her forehead and back over the punished permanent. "How glad I am," she told herself, "that I asked both Millicent and Don not to phone tonight. I mustn't let either voice influence me in what I have to decide now."

Morning would begin the summer vacation. Don wanted her answer so that he might make plans for an early autumn wedding. "You will go right ahead after we're married, of course," he had told Tay, "and finish your doctorate. I won't mind a bit if my wife has two more years of college than I have."

Tay knew that Millicent yearned for an answer too. Not that she wouldn't wait forever; but if only Tay would decide now the two young women might share the summer at Millicent's rustic cabin on Moosehead Lake. Of course, Tay could so easily go with Millicent and explain nothing. Her family would see no more there than ordinary friendship, which needed no explanation. But Tay knew that what was left of the relationship which was "ordinary" would immediately at Moosehead Lake slip into, and be assimilated by, this glowing, pulse-racing wonder called love. And she knew that when that happened, Don would stand as much chance as the statue in the park. She was too honest to go with Millicent under these circumstances. If Millicent proved to be her choice, then both Don and her family must know. And by tomorrow morning.

As soon as breakfast was over, she would explode the H-bomb. Except that in this case, H would not stand for hydrogen . . .

Downstairs, she heard the phone ringing. Then the buzzer on the extension in Tay's room. She glanced at her watch. It said 9:42. She wouldn't answer. But then, if she didn't, her mother would be right up to see what was the matter. So she lifted the telephone and said, "Well?"

"Ahhh, do I hear my baby's voice at last? Honey, I know you told me not to call, but what do you expect when somebody's in love? I was real good for more than half the evening, though - but finally, I couldn't stand it any longer."

Tay felt herself going stiff all over. The words came on tumbling from the receiver.

"How about giving me an hour before midnight? Just one little hour? Huh? Please - "

Tay's answer came cool. "Why did you phone when I asked you not to?"

"Well, I - I've already explained. I'm in love, Honey! What's the fancy idea, anyway, cloistering yourself in your room, and not even seeing the person who's - "

"If you'll pardon me, I'll say goodbye and hang up now."

"Hey you - wait a minute! Just wait until I lay my big hands on your little shoulders - "

Tay didn't wait. "Goodbye, Don," she said softly, and laid the unit into its cradle. "Big hands -" she murmured. "Big hands - clean and well-shaped; full of love, too. But are they for me? In spite of all the love they bring, <u>are they for me?</u>"

Then she remembered Millicent's hands. Tender, soft, compatible hands as they held one of Tay's hands, or as they touched her cheek or her throat ...Suddenly her own hands trembled up to her face and she wept into them. All the bitterness of the struggle rendered liquid in tears, and they flowed down her fingers and along her wrists until they dampened the white piquet cuffs.

Now Tay knew. And she knew, too, that she couldn't wait until morning to announce her decision. Postponing it would take even more courage than facing it. So she stepped to her mirror. Her face, somehow, reminded her of a sea over which a hurricane has passed. The surface wasn't calm yet; but the sharp and craggy waves were rounded now, were content to yield to the elements. Tay combed her hair carefully, then spread on fresh lipstick. At the door, she turned back. "First," she said, "I must phone Don. And it won't be easy."

Tay wasn't sure, as she made her way downstairs, that Don had understood. But she had told him plainly enough. And she had told him why. Now, the even harder part . . . informing her family. She was glad that Alan was out for the evening and that Geraldine was reading in her own room. It saved having to ask them to leave.

"Dad, Mother, I want to talk with you two," she told her parents.

Her mother looked at her, and then in a rather startled voice asked, "Why - what's the matter?"

Her father said, "What's wrong, Pet?"

"It's that - it's that I've decided tonight." She felt her face going out of control. Her voice, too.

"Decided what?" her father prompted.

"Why, that I can't marry Don. I - I just can't. Instead I'm going with Millicent to her cabin this summer. And when we come back in the fall - " Tay stopped to catch her breath. "When we come back, I'm going to stay with Millicent in her apartment."

"Stay with Millicent?" the mother demanded. "Why? What's the matter with your own home?"

"Nothing, Mother. It's a lovely home. And I have a lovely family. But Mother - " then she turned toward her father, "and Dad, I think you should both know. I care for Millicent. Differently, and far more than for

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"Nothing, Mother. It's a lovely home. And I have a lovely family. But Mother - " then she turned toward her father, "and Dad, I think you should both know. I care for Millicent. Differently, and far more than for

a mere friend. I want to - I have to share my life with her. We - I guess you two wouldn't understand very well - it's so far from the kind of lives you've led." Tay caught her breath again. "But if it can make any differences with Dad's position, Millicent and I will go to some other place. She can teach almost anywhere, you know. I'll finish my doctorate wherever she teaches, if it's going to make any diff - " The words stopped then. But Tay's father took up.

"My child, how can you suppose that I wouldn't understand? How could I have been Dean of Men over at State all these years without knowing the facts of life?" Then the tips of his fingers came together, which they did whenever he must consider any subject carefully. And his mouth took on that tight look which it did whenever the subject might offer unpleasant connections.

Tay's mother opened her mouth, then closed it abruptly. It seemed to Tay that all of life had suspended. Even her own breath stopped. Then her father spoke again, slowly.

"No, it won't make any real difference with my work. In fact, you might be surprised at how many of the faculty are - well, at how many prefer to live with their own sex rather than to enter conventional marriage." He stopped again, now to clear his throat. "It isn't that I wouldn't be happy - more than happy - to see you the wife of Don. But your life is your own. Most of all for that life, my child, I want happiness."

Tay then turned to her mother. "I think," her father added, more quickly now, "that I can explain with satisfaction to the rest of the family. Not, perhaps, that they'll need too much explaining. After all, this is the second half of the twentieth century, you know."

Tay smiled, faintly. She said, "Thank you, Dad." Then she walked to the large bay window where she could sit and look across at the trees. They towered over the campus like some sentient shelter. Just beyond the tallest of the oaks and slightly to the left, stood the apartment house where Millicent lived. Joy and peace and a

new-found contentment flowed through Fay's heart.

Under her breath she said, "Good old Mil - your love was strong enough not to let you call me tonight, wasn't it? In the morning, you'll know how strong my love is..!"

Time Out for Tribute ...

.... to SANDY

The feud between the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles is one of long standing, but it would appear that there will soon be a liaison officer in the person of Helen Sanders, Come the first of the year she will be taking up residence in "smogland".

Sandy, as she is known in DOB circles, has served as past president of the Daughters, as production manager last year for THE LADDER. She is presently serving on the Board of Directors as publicatibns director. She has also proved most valuable in public relations, having represented the DOB at ONE's Mid-Winter Institute and the Mattachine Convention last year - to say nothing of her numerous appearances on panels at Mattachine and DOB public discussion meetings.

But aside from her usefulness (which we have taken full advantage of), we just kinda like the gal! And we hate to lose her . . .

However, if she's determined to make the move, we aren't above cutting out a big job for her in Los Angeles. For there is the matter of a chapter there, and she's just the gal who can swing it.

With warmest regards and best wishes,
the Daughters say

So long, Sandy!

39. THE KING OF A RAINY COUNTRY by Brigid Brophy. Alfred A. Knopf, c1956.

A poignant novel about a young girl who lives with Noale, a young homosexual male, without benefit of wedlock. They both become enamored with the picture of a girl named Cynthia out of the past life of the protagonist. After searching all over the world for Cynthia, she finds that her love for her is only a childhood memory. At the end of the book she meets and falls in love with a famous singer, Helena, but as they are about to be united Helena is killed in a plane crash.

40. 21 VARIATIONS ON A THEME edited by Donald Webster Cory. Greenberg, 1953.

A fascinating anthology of homophilic short stories out of which four deal with Lesbian themes:

Ruth and Irma, a moving portrait of a carefree "lost" generation abroad.

Paul's Mistress, an unusual study of the tolerance and levity displayed toward deviation in France.

Long in Populous City Pent, a memorable story of a "mixed homophilic" marriage.

The Knife of the Times, the story of a long-lost wish fulfilled.

41. MURDER IN MONACO by John Flagg. Fawcett Books (Gold Medal Books), 1957.

A penny dreadful thriller, poorly written, but fast and a good way to lose an evening. Of the seven main characters, four are Lesbians, and the others never come alive as these four do. The entire axis of the book depends on their homosexuality.

Bread and Butter Tips

Homosexuals Can Get Jobs - And Keep Them!

What was to have been a panel of four (two men and two women) qualified persons in the personnel and employment agency fields wound up with just two WOMEN at the December Mattachine Society public discussion meeting. However, the gals were not daunted by the absence of their male cohorts and proceeded, with the adept direction of Dr. Vera Plunkett as moderator, to give the predominantly male audience some very apt tips on employment and the homosexual.

Helen Sanders, publications director of the Daughters of Bilitis, who is experienced in the printing trades and the retail store field, pointed out that the prospective employee has his services, a very marketable product, to sell.

"Anyone with fears about a job should examine himself and find out what he has to offer," she said. "No employment questionnaire asks other than are you a male or a female - certainly not if you are a homosexual. This problem comes into being only if you yourself bring it to the job."

Joyce McCreery, who previously served as personnel interviewer for a large paper company, conducted a sample interview using a member of the audience as a guinea pig. She brought out the fact that the firm she worked for checked the three previous employers and investigated further where there were very short periods of employment. She stressed the importance of self-confidence and ability to express oneself about the job desired as well as the necessary qualifications for the particular job.

Both speakers pointedly advised the job applicant to fill in the lapses of time in their work records regardless. "But by all means remember what you said!" Miss Sanders hastened to add.

That the undesirable service discharge is not the hazard it has been supposed was also brought out. Many have been bonded, and many others are working on jobs even though the

discharge is known by their employers. However, it is not advisable for those with this type of discharge to pursue the civil service field for employment.

For those with police records, it was pointed out that the Northern California Service League is set up to handle and advise in such instances.

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REPORT ON 'RELIGION AND DEPTH PSYCHOLOGY'
TO BE FEATURED IN JANUARY ISSUE

Leo Zeff's presentation of his paper, "Religion and Depth Psychology", at the November public discussion meeting proved to be so provocative that we have asked and received permission from him to reprint it in the January issue of THE LADDER. The subject material is of utmost importance and interest to all, and resulted in an enthusiastic discussion of religion in general at the Gab 'n Java session the week following the meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, December 31 - New Year's Eve Party. Members only.

Wednesday, January 8 - Monthly business meeting at 2174 California St., 8 p.m., basement Apartment.

Tuesday, January 28 - Joint meeting of the Daughters of Bilitis and the Mattachine Society. The topic, "Where Are We Headed?" 465 Geary St., Studio 30, 8:15 p.m.

January 31 through February 2 - ONE's annual Mid-Winter Institute in Los Angeles. Further particulars to be announced next month.

Panel Discussion

ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

During the Fourth Annual Convention of the Mattachine Society, Inc., in San Francisco last September, one of the highlights of the program was a panel discussion on "Homophile Organizations and Publications in the United States Today". In her usual lucid style, here is the report on that discussion by THE LADDER's Los Angeles correspondent, Sten Russell. - ED.

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Helen Sanders, president of the Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., said she had been asked many times, "Why a separate organization for women?" The question appeared to need answering one more time. In the first place, the original founders of the Daughters of Bilitis were unaware of the existence of ONE,Inc., and Mattachine Society, Inc. This knowledge might not have altered anything, however, as the women of the Bay Area seemed to prefer a separate organization, and still do. Some of the DOB members also belong to Mattachine and ONE, but some would belong to no other homophilic organization. The membership is open to all women over 21 years who have a genuine interest in the problems of the female homophile and the related problems of other minorities.

In referring to the history of the organization, she said, "Eight women got together in the Fall of 1955 with an idea: that something should be done about the problems of Lesbians, both within their own group and with the public." She added that originally the group was an outlet for social activities, but that discussions became increasingly broader and more serious and the organization was formed with the "purpose" as set forth on the inside cover of THE LADDER.

There is a variety of activities: parties, picnics, brunches, Gab 'n Java sessions, meetings for members only and Discussion Meetings every month which are open to the general public. There are 55 members, most of whom live in the Bay Area. She ended her report with a review of

incidents of cooperativeness and friendliness between the three organizations and professional researchers in the field.

THE LADDER

Phyllis Lyon, editor of THE LADDER, gave a history of this newest of homophile magazines. In October, 1956, it was a mimeographed newsletter of 12 pages circulating 178 copies. There were 15 paid subscribers at the time.

There are now 400 subscribers, many of whom are men. Some subscribers live in Europe. The staff is at present making a composite of the first five issues for reprint. THE LADDER aims mainly at reporting activities of interest of the various homophilic organizations, but also accepts story manuscripts, poems, articles and money.

ONE, INC.

W. Dorr Legg, chairman, Board of Directors, ONE, Inc., gave a resume of the structure, aims, problems and progress of ONE. He mentioned how much ONE appreciated the DOB's help with ONE's Legal Fund. Regarding structure, he said that ONE was not a membership type of organization like the DOB and the Mattachine Society-that there were a fixed number of corporation members, officers and board of directors who voted on policies and that other members who contributed time and money were considered "friends of ONE" but were non-voting. The corporation has four main divisions according to the bylaws and papers of incorporation.

Regarding the Education Division he mentioned the Mid-Winter Institutes and the progress of ONE Institute's new courses. Under Publications' Division he told of the publishing of "Game of Fools" by James Barr; "Homosexuals Today - A Handbook of Organizations and Publications-1956", and ONE Confidential. He spoke also of the progress of the Library and the Book Service.

Under the Research Division he mentioned the current project to produce a satisfactory dictionary in the field of homophilia that would include a cross-referencing of popular, slang, scientific, medical, legal and foreign terminology.

Under the Social Service Division various problems were mentioned. He said that there was a small list of dependable attorneys for those who needed legal aid. He added that there were always emergency calls for employment and housing, but that only in rare instances could any help be given - that the Division was not organized nor staffed adequately enough for that as yet.

As to the editorial policy of ONE Magazine, he said that it strove to give as democratic a presentation of views in the field of homophilia as possible. An interesting fact that he mentioned was that there were 200 friends of ONE throughout the world who do a clipping service for the magazine.

DIFFERENT APPROACHES

Jim Kepner, associate editor, ONE Magazine, spoke on the purposes of ONE, Inc., and the differences in approaches by the various homosexual organizations. He contrasted them with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) which is aggressive and assertive compared to the conservative National Urban League which believes in "light without heat". He believes there is a definite need for different approaches in our field. He said, "ONE doesn't think we should sit back and leave research to the professionals. Who now questions the right and ability of Negro or Jewish scholars, or those of other races or minorities, to study their particular problems?" He felt that first maybe we should find out what we think on the subject and then present this viewpoint, thereby giving homosexuals standards of judgement by which to measure their own opinions, and an integrated approach to life.

He spoke of biology as applied to homosexuals and asked, "Do the psychologists and psychiatrists who talk of causes know of the research in this field?" Kepner said that ONE is speaking primarily to the homosexual and secondarily to the general public; that ONE wants to give homosexuals a voice. ONE does not want toleration in a ghetto system for homosexuals, nor are chameleon-type homosexuals a goal. A rightful place in society for homosexuals is ONE's goal, he stated. ONE is primarily educational, Kepner said, and while it is openly critical of laws as they are it does not encourage people to

break the laws. ONE is not much concerned with making a show of outer respectability. Homosexuals must first have self-respect as a group, he concluded.

Legg added that he believed it was an American duty to dissent, to look things over from a critical point of view and decide their merit independently.

ONE INSTITUTE

Sten Russell, staff writer for ONE Magazine and Los Angeles reporter for THE LADDER, gave her reaction to the ONE Institute Survey Course she had attended in the Spring. In a nutshell, she felt that the ONE Institute educational program was important to anyone desiring to be a leader, or even an informed observer, in the homophile movement. She referred the audience to her report in the July, 1957, issue of THE LADDER called "ONE Institute, a Specialized School."

Ron Argall, also a student at the Institute, was called upon for a reaction to the Survey Course and the work of the Vocabulary committee. He agreed with Miss Russell as to the value the course held for potential leaders. He told of the work of the Vocabulary committee in doing the beginning spadework for a Dictionary of Homosexual Terminology. For the benefit of the Fall students, he said the committee had worked up definitions for the following 12 most common and most commonly confused terms: abnormal, bisexual, homophile, homophilia, homosexual, homosexuality, normal, pervert, perversion, sodomy, un-natural and natural.

MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.

Tony Segura, public relations director for the Mattachine Society, referred the audience to his report on page nine of the September, 1957, issue of the Mattachine Review. He supplemented this with some observations on how to have a more successful organization. He said, "Always be ready with a bucket of oil to pour on troubled waters - iron out personal frictions for the greater cause. Mold the organization around the individuals you have, not those you would like to have. Consider their likes and pet projects and find work for them according to their

talent. Consider also that their physical presence at meetings is a valuable thing, whether they are able to give money or not."

PAN-GRAPHIC PRESS

Hal Call, editor of the Mattachine Review and co-partner in Pan-Graphic Press, explained the relationship of the Press to the Mattachine Society. The printing firm was started as a means of printing the Review but is in no way connected with the Society. It is an independent firm and no funds from the Society (other than those paid for printing the Review) have been used by the company.

-Sten Russell

Copies of the various issues mentioned in the foregoing article may be obtained from the DOB, 693 Mission St., Room 308. All are 50 cents a copy. - ED.

READERS RESPOND

"My daughter subscribes to your magazine, THE LADDER, and I would also like a subscription. Would you please start the subscription with a copy or two of the back numbers?"

D.G., Kansas City, Kan.

* * * * *

"Thank you for sending the complimentary copy of THE LADDER in response to my recent letter of inquiry.

"I couldn't agree more wholeheartedly with the aims and purposes of your organization, as expressed inside the front cover. (Though I see room for discussion about how some of them would best be carried out, of course.) For

some years now I have envisioned and hoped for an organization like this. For most of these years I was out of the country, so did not know about the formation of ONE, Inc., or your own organization, until very lately.

Your research project sounds most useful. I think that some day another project must be undertaken, handled if possible by trained psychologists or psychiatrists (of the objective variety), that will attempt to measure personality traits and patterns among homosexuals. There has been a great deal of supposedly scientific writing by psychoanalysts like Edmund Bergler and Frank Caprio, painting a lurid picture of the homosexual - all homosexuals. I have always thought, after cooling down from reading such material, that a good comprehensive survey, using whatever tools and methods personality testers use nowadays (and even though I am pretty sceptical about some of these tests), that such a survey would disprove those claims and show them to be biased and due to the limited material these psychoanalysts have to work with. (But of course the results might be otherwise - the study might show homosexuals, on the average, to be about as claimed by these people. The objective investigator would then have to decide how good the tests were, and most important, the effects of the homosexuals' life experiences in shaping their personalities - something that Bergler and Caprio refuse to do.)

"Enclosed is my check for $10.00. Please use $2.50 to enter a subscription to THE LADDER for me, and use $1.50 more to order for me the original first five issues, as advertised. The rest of the money please accept as a contribution to your work. Also please send me a membership application."

F.J., Chicago, Ill.

"Enclosed is $2.50 for a subscription to your fine and worthwhile magazine. I am going to try to obtain a few more subscribers for you here in Los Angeles.

"Keep up the wonderful work you're doing for the homosexual."

C.R., Hollywood, Calif.

• • • • •

"I am in the process of becoming one of your members I hope. Deeply regret that I don't live close enough to be a more active member. I do think you are doing an excellent job out there.

"I would like to volunteer for your 'case histories of Lesbians' project. If you will send me a questionnaire, I will gladly fill it out.

"Enclosed is a small contribution, which I know you will put to good use. Keep up the good work."

J.E., Woodstock, Ill.

• • • • •

"I received your sample copy of THE LADDER, and I am very hopeful. Hopeful because at last there is a non-profit corporation which prints the true story of Lesbianism.

"I am sending a money order for one year's subscription and would like one copy of the September issue. Your publication is the best, and I do hope your organization grows bigger and better in the future...

"I am interested in all books on Lesbianism. I have many in my library now, but every week I try to buy one or two more. One of the best

novels I have read has been 'Wind Woman' by Carol Hales - she is great. . .

"The best I have read in the non-fiction field are Frank S. Caprio's 'Female Homosexuality' and Ann Aldrich's 'We Walk Alone'. . .

"I am sending along, too, a little contribution to further your work and will send more in the future. . ."

D.M., Fall River, Mass.

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THE LADDER: A monthly publication by the *Daughters of Bilitis, Inc.*, mailed by first class mail in a plain sealed envelope for $2.50 per year.

CONTRIBUTIONS are gratefully accepted from anyone who wishes to assist us in our work. We are a non-profit corporation working entirely on donated labor. Our fees are not of such amounts as to allow for much expansion of the publication. While men may not become members of the *Daughters of Bilitis, Inc.*, many have expressed interest in our efforts and our publication and have made contributions to further our work. Of course, anyone over 21 years of age may subscribe to *THE LADDER*.

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